

## THE CINCINNATI CONVENTION

THE EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE OF A CHICAGO REPORTER.

His Dangerous Apartments in the Burnett House-Hunting for Breakfast—A Lively Time with Cabmen—A Lemonade at the Grand-The Price of Congress Water.

*From the Chicago Times.*

Let us all hope that the next National Convention, of whatever party, will be held in the most remote fastnesses of the most inaccessible part of the furthest corner of the northwestern mountains, where there are no people, no hotels, no back roads, no logs, no dirt, no anything. Where a man must take a blanket with him to serve in lieu of house; where he will have to live on what he can carry with him; where the wind will blow, and the water will run, and the crowd will be small, and the business brief. Where a man when he sleeps will have room to turn over. Where the flies do not wear gauze shoes with rosin sores. Where old man Priest of St. Louis can't penetrate. Where, in short, it would be possible to live while it might be necessary to stay.

Either that, or let us have it in a city. Under no circumstances let us see another Convention here. No, never. Not even花生ly. There were three of us in our party. One was a good young man, addicted to Sunday school, and given up to more or less hollowness. Another was a worldling, given to expressing himself in Italian, and very weak in the flesh. For myself, I am an indifferent moral man. Not too good, but just good enough. It was fortunate we were so happily balanced. Otherwise we would have sworn ourselves to stink.

Some weeks before the opening of the Convention we had corresponded with the Burnett House, and before leaving Chicago we had received a friendly note from the manager, a necessarily French name, who signed himself "secretary." The letter informed us that our room would be ready on a certain day. I came first. The room was found to consist of one apartment facing east, and slightly amenable to the morning sun. It was about \$2.75 a week. From the window it looked out with sheets that looked and felt like table spreads that had been pressed to room duty just after dinner, without any intervention of wash, starch, or dressing-table, and a washstand. The bursar had served beyond its time. It was bad, and one. It was one of those dreary, ill-tempered rooms that you find in a very free circulation of air. There was no transom over the door. The room was close as a burr, and the windows were too small to be made minuscule to rectify which I would speak to the clerk. The clerk said there was no mistake.

"Do you expect three of us to sleep there?" I asked.

"Certainly," said he. "We'll put up lots." Where he put them I could not guess. However, that was his lookout, and I dismissed it from my mind.

When the worldling came, as he did in a day or two, things began to be doubly uncomfortable.

"Never mind," said I. "He said he'd put up." We went down and interviewed him. He was rather severe.

"I can't put you up a cot," said he. "We haven't got any more cots."

"But what were we to do? That night the worldling got in first. My dejection around him.

"You don't mean to sleep here, do you?" he asked.

"Somewhat," said I. "No place else to go."

"Tell you what you do," said he. "I took a walk this afternoon, and I found a couple up near the Grand Hotel, and I thought I'd go in and see if they had any more cots."

"Thank you," said I. "I'll take my chances here. You're sociable enough for me."

In some thought I changed my mind about sleeping in a cot, and I went up to the Pan-handle. I took a pillow and laid it on the window-sill, and stretched myself out on the carpet. The worldling followed me, and some slept.

"What I'd thought of the outfit," said he. "There is room for another head in that window."

"No."

And so we spent the night. The flies were up before the sun. I rose with the flies to find that it had rained, that I had caught a beautiful trout, and that the worldling was always full had showed me to the southmost extremity of Hades to cool off.

There were some remarkably unctuous references to the holy family that morning. About noon our host, the worldling, was seen wandering about in the heat and paying back fares since 8 o'clock, trying to find us. He was not angry but he looked exceedingly grave. He would not say a word, but I could see that he still never forgot how the sight affected him. He was hot and dusty, and tired. He sat down.

"Must we sit here?" he asked.

"Yes," said he. He mopped his face with a handkerchief, drew his shirt over his head, and lay down on the floor.

We sat there in a semi-circle, and I lay up on an elderly friend—from Minnesota. I had forgotten his name in the heat of the moment that morning, but he had a baggazee.

"How nice it is to sit here," he said. "I have turned up stairs. When I got there they put my suitcase in the wrong room. I made a complaint to the manager, and he said he would make it right.

"I intended leaving on an early train," said he. "I preferred a hot day's ride, staying here until night. I was stopping at a hotel I had passed on the road to Cincinnati. It is one of the best in the city, and I had a room to myself.

"The manager said, 'I'm sorry, but we have no room for you.' I said, 'I'll wait until morning.'

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